

This is a copy of a conversation between ChatGPT & Anonymous.

Report conversation

What are all the years Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel predicted or implied the second coming of Christ would take place? Also Include any conjectures about the early 1970s (from sermons, etc), and whether or not the 1967 six-day war might have also been the beginning of the last generation culminating no later than 2007. Provide sources and direct quotes and links for supporting documentation.

Thought >

Thought for 48s >

Short answer up front — the years Chuck (C. W.) Smith **explicitly or implicitly** tied to a possible date for the Rapture / Second Coming in his 1970s–80s teaching are **1981, 1986, 1988** — and he also said the timeline could be measured from **1967** (which, with his 40-year “generation” math, would put the window out to **2007**, and (after subtracting a seven-year tribulation) would imply a rapture sometime **by about 2000**). Below I list the passages, exact quotes (or quoted text from his books/sermons), and links to the sources that preserve those quotes.

What Chuck Smith wrote / taught (quotes + sources)

1) "Before the end of 1981" — a clear statement about the Rapture

"From my understanding of biblical prophecies, I'm convinced that the Lord is coming for His Church **before the end of 1981**. I could be wrong, but it's a deep conviction in my heart, and all my plans are predicated upon that belief."

(Source attribution in multiple reproductions to Chuck Smith, *Future Survival* (1978).). didaskologos +1

- This exact sentence (and variants) appears in print citations of Smith's *Future Survival* (1978 / 1980 printing) and is widely quoted by writers reviewing his eschatology. See the reproduction and discussion here.

didaskologos +1

2) 1981 (derived from $1948 + 40 - 7 = 1981$) — the 1948 "fig tree" / generation calculation

"If I understand Scripture correctly, Jesus taught us that the generation which sees the 'budding of the fig tree,' the birth of the nation Israel, will be the generation that sees the Lord's return. I **believe that the generation of 1948 is the last generation. Since a generation of judgment is forty years and the Tribulation period lasts seven years, I believe the Lord could come back for His Church any time before the Tribulation starts, which would mean any time before 1981. ($1948 + 40 - 7 = 1981$).**"

(Quoted from Smith's *End Times* (1978) as cited in reviews and articles about his books.) American Vision +1

- Many secondary sources quote this passage from *End Times* (1978) and discuss Calvary Chapel events around the 1979–1981 period.

American Vision +1

3) 1986 — Halley's Comet / solar-scorch reference as a tribulation sign

"The Lord said that towards the end of the Tribulation period the sun would scorch men who dwell upon the face of the earth (Rev. 16). **The year 1986 would fit just about right.**"

(Quoted from Smith's *Future Survival / End Times* commentary in the late 1970s; appears in modern summaries of his chronology.) BibleThinker +1

- This was part of the same sequence of prophetic "pieces" he assembled (Halley's Comet passing in 1986 was linked by Smith to tribulation phenomena). American Vision

4) 1988 — the 40-year-from-1948 endpoint for the Second Coming (fig-tree math)

"We're the generation that saw the fig tree bud forth, as Israel became a nation again in 1948. As a rule, a generation in the Bible lasts 40 years. . . . **Forty years after 1948 would bring us to 1988.**"

(Quoted attribution to Smith's *Future Survival / End Times* in later discussions of his timeline.) American Vision +1

- Note: Smith used the 1948→1988 interval in different places to describe the "generation" and used the 40/7 calculation (above) to say the Church could be taken prior to the tribulation (hence the 1981 statement). American Vision

5) Alternative starting point: 1967 → 2007 (and rapture by ~2000)

Smith also acknowledged (as a hedge) that the fig-tree "generation" might be dated from **1967** (the Six-Day War / Jerusalem under Israeli control).

Quoting his published material (and repeated in subsequent reviews):

"However, it is possible that Jesus is dating the beginning of the generation from **1967**, when Jerusalem was again under Israeli control for the first time since 587 B.C. **We don't know for sure which year actually marks the beginning of the last generation.**"

(Quoted from *End Times* (1978) as reproduced and discussed in later analyses.) American Vision +1

- If you use 1967 as the start, 40 years later is **2007**; subtracting a seven-year tribulation would place the rapture sometime **by about 2000** in the same algebraic scheme Smith used. That alternative dating and the 1967 possibility are explicitly mentioned in Smith's writings (and are summarized in multiple reviews and critical articles). BibleThinker +1

Short timeline summary (how Smith's numbers translate into calendar years)

- **1976** – *Snatched Away!* (and other writings/sermons from the mid-1970s) treat the rebirth of Israel (1948) as prophetically decisive; quoted phrase: "the generation that was living in May 1948 shall not pass ..." (cited in later summaries). Wikipedia +1
- **1978** – *End Times* (and *Future Survival*) → **explicit** arithmetic: $1948 + 40 - 7 = 1981$ (Smith: rapture "any time before 1981"). He also wrote that 40 years after 1948 is **1988**, and mentions **1986** (Halley's Comet / solar scorch) as fitting tribulation signs. American Vision +1
- **Alternative:** Smith allowed 1967 as a possible beginning: $1967 + 40 = 2007$ (and subtracting 7 years would give rapture by about **2000**). He explicitly said the start year could be 1967. American Vision +1

Documentary evidence & where to read the quotations

- **Scans / reproductions of the quoted pages** (images of Smith's book pages are collected and reproduced by researchers/critics): Beggar's Bread hosts scans/excerpts showing the *Future Survival* / *Snatched Away* / *End Times* pages that contain these proposals. (Images of those pages are shown on the page.) Beggar's Bread
- **Online writeups quoting the books** with page references:
 - American Vision — "Prophetic Pronouncements Under the Microscope" (cites *End Times* p.35; *Future Survival* p.20). American Vision
 - ABC News — short summary (on missed doomsday predictions) quoting the *End Times* passage about "any time before 1981." ABC News
 - Calvary Chapel wiki / Wikipedia and other summaries that document the 1981 / 1988 chronology. (Wikipedia article on Chuck Smith and on Calvary Chapel Association summarize these passages and provide bibliographic pointers to Smith's books.) Wikipedia +1
- **Primary works by Chuck Smith** (books where the quotes originate):
 - *Snatched Away!* (1976) — discusses the 1948 "generation" phrasing. (cited in online summaries.) Wikipedia
 - *End Times: A Report on Future Survival* (1978) — contains the 1948+40-7 = 1981 passage and the 1967-start hedge (p.35-36 in citations). American Vision
 - *Future Survival* (1978 / 1980 editions) — contains the "before the end of 1981" sentence (quoted frequently by critics and reviewers).

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If you want to see the **scans** of the actual pages, Beggar's Bread has reproduced images of the pages from *Future Survival* and *Snatched Away* (these are screen images of the book pages used by commentators). See the photo-scan reproductions on that page.

Beggar's Bread

A couple of context notes (important)

1. **Smith often used hedging language** ("I could be wrong," "it is possible...") but he also said his plans were "predicated" on the 1981 expectation (that is, he acted as though the possibility had pastoral weight). The passages above show both the hedging and the firm-seeming conviction; critics point to both. didaskologos +1
2. **Because the original lines appear in Smith's printed books (1976–1980), most later online references quote those pages** rather than reproducing full text (copyright). The best way to see the exact printed wording is to consult a library copy or purchase a used copy of *End Times / Future Survival / Snatched Away*; several online book-retail listings and catalog records cite the same page numbers I've quoted above. (I have linked to the articles that quote the exact sentences with page citations.) BibleThinker +1

Quick bibliography / links (direct)

- Beggar's Bread — Chuck Smith category (contains scans/images of pages quoted from Smith's books). Beggar's Bread

Link: (Beggar's Bread: Chuck Smith category) Beggar's Bread

- American Vision — "Prophetic Pronouncements Under the Microscope" (quotes *End Times* p.35 and *Future Survival* p.20). American Vision
- ABC News — "Mayan Calendar and Missed Doomsday Predictions" (short excerpt quoting Smith's 1981 passage). ABC News
- Wikipedia — article entries summarizing Chuck Smith / Calvary Chapel and noting the 1981 / 1988 timeline and book citations. (useful for quick reference and bibliographic pointers). Wikipedia +1
- "The Fig Tree Prophecy" (PDF) — a teaching paper that reproduces Smith quotes and explicitly lists the alternative 1967→2007 line (with the implication of rapture by ~2000 when subtracting 7 years). BibleThinker

Final, concise answer to your questions

1. All the years he predicted or implied (from his published books/sermons and the calculations he used):

- **1981** — explicitly named in *Future Survival* / *End Times* as the latest year the Church could be taken ($1948 + 40 - 7 = 1981$).

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- **1986** — mentioned as the year that would "fit" the Revelation sun-scorching passage (connected to Halley's Comet). American Vision
- **1988** — the 40-year mark from 1948 (i.e., $1948 + 40 = 1988$) which Smith used in his fig-tree wording (and sometimes referred to as the broader 40-year endpoint). American Vision

2. Conjectures about the early 1970s / sermons — Smith's *Snatched Away!* (mid-1970s) and Revelation series sermons from the late-1970s repeatedly tied Israel's 1948 rebirth to "this generation" and were

taught in the early/late 1970s; those sermons and booklets are the origin of the 1948→1988/1981 calculations. (See *Snatched Away!* and the *End Times / Future Survival* material.) [Wikipedia](#) +1

- 3. Was the 1967 Six-Day War presented as an alternate starting point (leading to 2007)? — Yes.** Smith wrote that it is *possible* Jesus meant the generation's start from **1967** (Jerusalem back under Israeli control), and commentators have summarized Smith's alternative as **1967 → 2007** (and—using the same 40 – 7 arithmetic—this implies the Church could be taken by around **2000**). That alternate possibility is explicitly mentioned in *End Times* and in later summaries. [American Vision](#) +1
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Want the exact page images?

If you'd like, I can pull together direct scanned page images or exact bibliographic citations (publisher, ISBN, page numbers) for *End Times*, *Future Survival*, and *Snatched Away!* so you can consult the primary pages yourself (they're what most online articles are quoting). I didn't attach the full book scans here because of copyright, but I linked the pages and reproductions where the quoted lines are shown. (Beggar's Bread and the *Future Survival* image reproductions are a convenient place to start.)

[Beggar's Bread](#) +1

If you want, I can:

- extract the **exact page images** and give you direct page-by-page screenshots of the quoted pages (where available), or

- collect a short PDF with the **full quoted passages and the source citations** (publisher, year, page) so you can cite them precisely.

Which of those would you like next?